

THE SALT LAKE HERALD-REPUBLICAN

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WATER METERS.

While we do not believe that the
men who comprise the city council
of Salt Lake will take the sug-
gestion to sell water to the citizens ex-
clusively by meter at all seriously,
there is no telling what the ruling
powers of the "American" party may
do in order to extricate themselves
from the middle in which their pecu-
liar financial policies have placed
the city. Therefore, we wish to reg-
ister our protest against anything of
the sort. It would be ridiculous and
absurd; furthermore, it would be, as
a noted statesman once said, more
than a crime, it would be a mistake.

Councilman Mulvey, who introduced
the resolution looking towards the in-
stallation of meters in the homes of
the city, is one of the most astute
members of the present council, which,
to those who are acquainted with the
actions of the city council, will not
seem so much of a compliment. It is
not probable that Mr. Mulvey wishes
his idea to be considered at all seri-
ously; it is likely that as a man in-
terested in the liquor business, he
wishes to give the members of the
council something else to think about.
It is one of the axioms of political
and economic warfare, that if you can
get the other fellow distracted with some-
thing else than the main issue, you
can put one over on him. Which is
just what Councilman Mulvey is prob-
ably trying to do at the present time.

As a liquor dealer who views with
alarm the peculiar views of some of
the members of the council, and who
has no sympathy with the general
"American" party tactics of robbing
the saloonist if possible, Mr. Mulvey
is apparently giving the council some-
thing else to think about. Mr. Mul-
vey, of course, recognizes the value of
the city creek output as a "chaser";
in fact, it is probably true that Mr.
Mulvey serves more water over his bar
than he does liquor. Therefore, we
cannot believe that he wishes to sell
his "chasers" by meter. Or does Mr.
Mulvey fear that the usual New Year
resolutions will so cripple the liquor
business that water will be his chief
commodity after January 1, and he
wishes to furnish himself with an ex-
cuse to raise the price?

Seriously speaking, however, no city
with any regard for the health, com-
fort or convenience of its citizens sells
its water to them by meter. The
statement was made in the city council
that all the cities of prominence in
the United States furnish water to
their citizens by meter. That state-
ment is not true, and it is not true, be-
cause the members of the city council
and the boards of aldermen of the
cities of the United States have too
much gray matter under their hats to
do anything of the kind.

Water meters mean parched lawns
in Salt Lake in the summer time. The
growing of grass in this country means
constant irrigation, and constant ir-
rigation means a large supply of water.
Many people are going to save money
on their water if they can do so, and
meters mean that they will decrease
the amount of water they use on their
lawns. If water is so scarce that it is
necessary for people to economize in
irrigating their lawns, that spells in-
efficiency for the city administration,
and the "American" party had better
begin explaining what became of the
bond money which was voted in 1908
to extend the water system.

Water meters mean that the ordi-
nary citizens of Salt Lake, the people
who do not expect luxuries, but are
hustling at least twelve hours of the
twenty-four for necessities, will re-
strict the use of water for domestic
purposes. It may be merely amusing
to some of us to believe that the per-
sonal cleanliness which is next to god-
liness will be affected by water meters,
but the experience of other cities
shows us that that statement is true.
Water is one of the necessities which
should be made as cheap as possible
for the people, and the city adminis-
tration that tries any other policy is
going to get bumped so hard that the
kick of an army mule will seem tame
by comparison.

The city administration is making a
profit of 100 per cent on the water it
is selling to the people under present
arrangements. That ought to be
enough profit to satisfy even a city
administration that is scurrying hither
and thither to disguise from the peo-
ple the fact that it is robbing them
tally, and hourly, by the absurd tax
rate. If the Mulvey resolution is of-
fered in a serious mood, it probably
means that the governing powers of
the "American" party have some es-
pecially outrageous robbery planned,
and wish to conceal it by a raise in
water rates.

With a taxable valuation higher than
for many years, with a two-mill in-
crease in the tax rate, with an out-
standing indebtedness against the city

The Case of Mr. Parker

BY ALFRED HENRY LEWIS

THERE is Albany talk, New York City talk, of sending Mr. Parker—
Alton B. Parker—to the Senate. Since the politicians, backed by
money are considering the gentleman, the public should do the same.

Who is Mr. Parker?
Take a look at his record and the company he has kept. The last is
peculiarly worth while; for than that there can be no better method of apply-
ing the acid to a man, with a purpose of declaring what of gold and what of
dross he carries in his composition.

The late Mr. Hill discovered Mr. Parker. Mr. Hill was in things political
Mr. Parker's architect, or—searching for a better word—patron, and fash-
ioned him and reared him into what we now behold.

Twenty-odd years ago Mr. Hill, then serving out Mr. Cleveland's unex-
pired term as governor, was the party boss in New York. Being upon his
own election as governor, he went roving hither and yon to pick up the one
best fitted for the management of the machine in his interest. He pitched
upon Mr. Parker. The latter had conquered his home county; that conquest,
as no one knew more clearly than did Mr. Hill—himself a prince of intrigue
and past master of chicanery—proved Mr. Parker to possess both craft and
stealth, and no interfering scruples. Also, he who can conquer a county can
conquer a state, just as he who can add ten to ten can add ten thousand to
ten thousand.

Believing he had lighted upon the man for whom he sought, Mr. Hill
invited Mr. Parker to take up his abode in New York, and to seek a vacancy
on the Supreme bench which the governor would fill. Where-
fore, and because the sun seemed shining for the Democrats, Mr. Parker felt
safe in resigning his Ulster county post of surrogate, to enter the political
service of Mr. Hill. He justified the latter in his selection. Cunning, sleep-
less, he so conducted the fortunes of Mr. Hill that the latter was made gov-
ernor by a majority of five figures. Mr. Hill showed his appreciation, and
consoled Mr. Parker for his labors by naming him to that Supreme court
vacancy aforesaid within a fortnight after the election. There you have the
record of Mr. Parker; and nothing to add to it unless that, as a judge, being
neither very bad nor very good, he never threatened the laurels of a Man-
field.

Mr. Parker has never quarreled with the boss, never opposed the
machine, but lived with both on terms of concord and agreement. His for-
tunes, warp and woof, were woven by a boss upon the loom of the machine.
A boss-made judge, a machine-stitched judge, he went on the bench not be-
cause he knew law, but politics; not because he had helped the public, but
Mr. Hill.

There is this to be said in Mr. Parker's defense. He climbed by the one
ladder his weak case made possible. Had he been without fortivities, or in-
capable of secrets, or warlike, or wanting in stealth, or one given rather to
force than craft, Mr. Hill would have had none of him. Politics, as practiced
by Mr. Hill, offered no field for frank honesties and a courage hard on the
bit. Had Mr. Parker not been submissive to the boss and the machine, he
would have been knocked on the head directly.

Feeling his own inadequacies of force and courage, Mr. Parker was plas-
tic clay to the moulding touch of Potter Hill. And yet these matters will not
with many show to his disadvantage. There are powerful influences whose
warm preference as well as prayer is for a senator who not alone under-
stands by dint of experience the wants of practical politics, but believes in
boss rule, and bows before the machine. These are the ones who put pocket-
books above patriotism, and would leave the country to sink while they got
their cash box ashore on a hatch cover.

Hotest?
Mr. Parker is honest; but his integrities are under control. Had they
been otherwise he could no more have managed Mr. Hill's canvass for gov-
ernor in 1885 than he could have made counterfeit money in 1885. He
could not have sat still while the Maynard outrage was worked, or remained
silent when the snap convention went stealing the delegation from Mr.
Cleveland. Mr. Parker's honesty is orderly, conventional, and in no wise
restrained of harum scarum—a fashion of polled-Angus honesty. It would
never interpose between tax eaters and their prey, or get in the way of what
volves, tariff and otherwise, maraud the public flocks and herds. He lacks
in the size of his hat and the size of his heart, and surpasses only in an in-
tensity of prudence that thinks only of self. No one exceeds him in money
loyalty and a profitable deference to the Big Interests. If he be chosen, he
will sit as the senator of what hungry coterie has placed the toga on his
shoulders.

that would be ridiculous if it were not
so appalling, the "American" party
faces something that is a condition and
not a theory. It has itself in a finan-
cial hole which probably looks worse
from within, where they are, than from
without, where we are; the city ad-
ministration knows not where to turn.
With the presiding genius of the ad-
ministration about to leave town for
the town's good, it is apparent that
something has to be done. Just why
Mr. Mulvey, who has always been
pretty much of a square fighter, should
allow himself to be used by the embryo
wizards of finance that compose the
"American" party councils, is one of
the things that no one can under-
stand, and recalls the words of the fa-
mous wit, who said that "politics
makes strange bedfellows."

The city council will do well, how-
ever, to let the water business alone.
The city should be satisfied with the
100 per cent profit it is making on
water at the present time. It is an
old game of city financiers to wrest
from the people in water rates sums
of money it would not dare to extract
by direct taxation. But Salt Lake is
in no humor to stand for this perfor-
mance. We hope Councilman Mulvey
will tell us the joke, and quit it.

We feel much in the position of the
man who attended a meeting when
Folk was a candidate for governor of
Missouri. The orator, as he warmed
to his work, said: "Gentlemen, who is
Folk?" Of course, no one answered,
and he repeated it. Pleased with the
effect, a fourth time he asked: "Gen-
tlemen, who is Folk?" The man in
the back part of the room could en-
dure it no longer, and blurted out:
"Oh, well, I'll bite; who is Folk?"

For the sake of the Mulvey humor
we'll bite, and ask, "What is the
joke?"

DEMOCRATIC SHINDIES.

The war between Dr. Woodrow Wil-
son and James Smith, Jr., goes merrily
on. The lie is being banded back and
forth and the New Jersey Democrats
have been lined up into opposing fac-
tions. New Jersey has been Republi-
can so long that the Democrats natu-
rally cannot help fighting over the
spoils, now that their opportunity has
come.

Pretty much the same situation ex-
ists in New York, where a United
States senator is to be elected to suc-
ceed Chauncey Depew. The unspeak-
able Murphy, boss of Tammany, has
placed the seal of his approval upon
the candidacy of Sheehan, of odorous
memory, while Democrats who do not
owe allegiance to the Wigwam favor
Shepard. The odds are on the Murphy
selection to win the race.

In Ohio the Democratic candidates
for senatorial honors are holding joint

debates setting forth their claims, and
when not so engaged are going up and
down the state making all sorts of ac-
cusations against each other. Indeed,
if only part of what these Buckeye
bourbons have claimed is true, not one
of them is fit for the exalted position
of United States senator.

It was William L. Marcy, a New
Yorker, who first used the expression
"to the victors belong the spoils," but
even Marcy was not an advocate of in-
dulging in party fights over them. Yet
such has invariably been the Demo-
cratic practice, and the present biff
and bang scenes are no exception to
the rule.

The Republicans of the afflicted
states are deriving much amusement
from the spectacles presented, now
that the bitterness of defeat has passed
away.

THE PEOPLE KNOW.

Now that the cold weather has ar-
rived and the kettle is singing merrily
on the kitchen stove, the citizens of
Salt Lake, and Utah for that matter,
have reason to be thankful that the
price of coal came down before the
cold winds began to blow and the
snowflakes to descend upon the earth.

The Herald-Republican takes just
pride in the fact that it not only
started the ball rolling, but kept up
the fight until its purpose was accom-
plished. Beggings the pardon of the
reading public for again referring to
a fact which has so humiliated its
morning and evening contemporaries
as to make them entirely oblivious of
the truth, The Herald-Republican calls
attention to the following from Good-
win's Weekly:

It will be a merrier Christmas for ev-
eryone concerned with 50 cents
lopped off the price of coal. The
fight of the newspapers as to
which one is responsible for the
decrease in the rate is really
laughable, for the credit belongs
to just one paper in the town, and
everybody knows which one.

Of course the editor of Goodwin's
Weekly meant The Herald-Republican
when it said that "the credit belongs
to just one paper in the town, and
everybody knows which one." That's
God's truth, everybody knows which
one. At the same time there are those
who know, but refuse to acknowledge
it.

But let them go their way. They
had no part or lot in the matter at any
rate. As Goodwin's Weekly forecasted,
it was "a merrier Christmas for ev-
eryone concerned with 50 cents lopped
off the price of coal," and no one has
accused the Salt Lake Tribune, the Even-
ing Telegram or the Deseret News of
bringing it about.

The fellow who tickled the lion's
chin is probably full brother of the
man who monkeyed with the buzz-
saw.

Great End-of-the-Year Clearance Sale Is On

Everything goes before stock-taking, enormous reductions pre-
vail. Entire stock of suits, black, navy blue and brown broad-
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in silks, panamas, serges, fancies, marquisettes, chiffon and all
evening shades and party dresses at Half Price; coats at great re-
ductions, many at Half Price; entire stock children's coats 1 to 6
and 6 to 14 at Half Price; also included in the impelling reduc-
tions are separate skirts, furs, sweaters, waists, ki-
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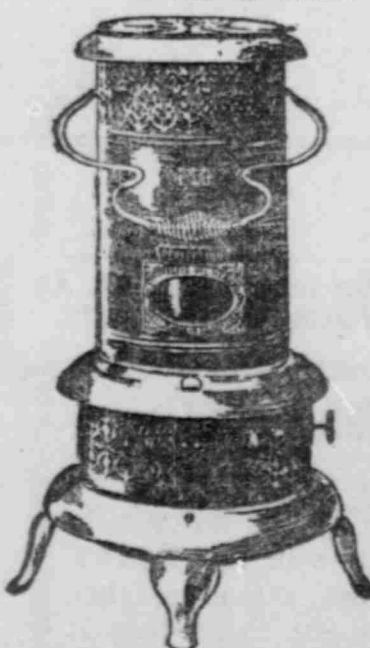
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